NPIC/TSSG/DED-1563-69
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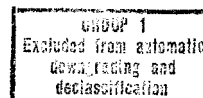

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Projects & Programs Staff, TSSG

SUBJECT   : Comments on Proposed Policy Statements on Computer
                  Support Within NPIC

1. These are my comments relative to the subject draft. I have
strong reservations about the suggested role of AID in providing com-
puter support for R&D efforts. If this is implemented, then R&D at
NPIC will have taken three giant steps backwards and the present diffi-
culty in establishing expeditious and effective project management and
control will be compounded further.

2. I have no arguments with AID's maintaining, managing, and
developing software for in-house computers or any computer system once
it is a part of delivered equipment to the Center. However, it should
be realized that computers are in essence tools which are a necessity
in developing advanced and automated systems in the image exploitation
field. They are an integral and critical part of any system design,
and any separation of responsibility between DED and AID during feasibil-
ity or breadboard prototype stages would lead to chaotic project manage-
ment conditions.

3. For this reason, I believe that DED should be responsible for
the computer interface and the necessary software during the exploratory
and advanced development (leading to breadboard prototype) phases of the
task. DED should coordinate with AID during these phases to keep them
apprised of possible future computer requirements. This coordination
should be for their information and their comment, but AID approval of
the computer approach should not be required. Every effort would be
made in this early period to keep computer requirements within the IIS
capability, and if this is not possible, exceptions shall be cited.
After feasibility is demonstrated and management decides that operational
equipment should be developed, then AID should be integrated thoroughly
in the effort, especially if the IIS computer is to be used. At this
point in time it is not clear who has the responsibility for maintaining,
managing, and effecting software changes for special purpose computers.
During this equipment development phase coordination should be thorough
with AID committing personnel to become acquainted with the software
requirements for the system.

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SUBJECT: Comments on Proposed Policy Statements on Computer Support
Within NPIC

4. I would appreciate any documentation forwarded to PPBS on the
subject reflecting the concern of this division.

25X1

Chief, Development & Engineering Division, TSSG

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